

# National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR)

## COLLABORATIVE STAGE



### Software for Cancer Registries

#### Collaborative Stage Development

Several members of the NPCR staff have participated in the development of Collaborative Stage. Some are members of the Collaborative Stage Task Force. Others work as members of the smaller and less formal Steering Committee, which is charged with the day-to-day responsibility for maintenance, enhancement, and technical support for the products and documents that are produced by the project. In addition, NPCR has taken on the work of producing an executable version of the Collaborative Stage algorithm and electronic documentation for it.

#### Use of Collaborative Stage in Registry Plus Products

- Registry Plus computer programs are kept up-to-date with the latest version of Collaborative Stage. The algorithm is fully implemented in Abstract Plus, Web Plus, Prep Plus, and CRS Plus.
- A special version of the Collaborative Stage Manual is incorporated in Registry Plus Online Help, making it possible to code abstracts for Collaborative Stage conveniently and quickly without reference to the printed manuals.

#### Recent Developments in Collaborative Staging

In April the Collaborative Stage Task Force released version 01.02.00 of the staging algorithm. Several schemas were changed to correct errors in the stage derivation. In about three quarters of the 94 schemas, light editing of descriptions and notes in response to user comments and questions has improved the precision and clarity of the instructions. The updated function library for this version is a simple replacement that should require no programming changes in most cancer registry software. Complete details about Collaborative Stage are available at <http://www.cancerstaging.org>.